

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant is submitting herewith one (1) sheet of replacement drawing figures in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84, which include FIGS. 3, 4a, and 4b. The submitted replacement figures are intended to replace FIGS. 3, 4a, and 4b, originally filed on April 5, 2005.

Attachment: One (1) Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicant hereby cancels claim 11, without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 1-10 and 12-48 are all of the claims pending in the application.

I. Formal Matter

The Examiner indicates that FIGS. 3, 4a, and 4b should be designated by a legend such as “—Prior Art—” because only that which is old is illustrated.

Applicant hereby submits one sheet of replacement drawing figures in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The replacement drawing figures include the legend, “Related Art.” Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the drawings.

II. Summary of the Office Action

Claims 2-10, 25-39, and 41-47 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species.

Claims 22-24 remain allowed, and claims 18 and 19 are newly allowed.

The Examiner withdrew the rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and the rejection of claims 1, 11-17, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over the previously applied reference. However, claim 1 and newly added claim 48 are now rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and claim 1 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over a newly applied reference. Claim 40 is newly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and newly added claim 48 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claims 11-17, 20, and 21 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 1 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement because the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, has possession of the claimed invention. Specifically, the Examiner indicates that the specification only mentions “rigid urethane foam,” but claims 1 and 48 recite “foamed polyurethane.”

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claims 1, 21, and 48 are hereby amended to recite “urethane foam” instead of “foamed polyurethane.” Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph rejection of claims 1 and 48.

IV. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,871,205 to Bray (hereinafter “Bray”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 is hereby amended to include the features of claim 11, which is hereby canceled, without prejudice. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable because the Examiner indicated that claim 11 contains allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 48 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 1.

Claim 40 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,363,839 to Watanabe et al. (hereinafter “Watanabe”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 40 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 1.

V. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18, 19, and 22-24 are allowed. The Examiner objected to claims 11-17, 20, and 21 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant respectfully notes that claim 1 is amended to include the features of claim 11, which is canceled, without prejudice. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 12-17, 20, and 21 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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